

### **Carrie Chapman Catt**

Carrie Clinton Lane was born in Ripon, Wisconsin on January 9, 1859. When she was seven years old, she moved with her family to Charles City, Iowa. In 1880, she was the only woman in the graduating class at the Iowa Agricultural College and Model Farm in Ames, Iowa. After college, she worked as a law clerk, schoolteacher and principal. In 1883, she became one of the first women in the United States to be appointed Superintendent of Schools.

In 1885, Lane married Leo Chapman in Charles City. He died one year later of typhoid fever on a trip to San Francisco. Mrs. Chapman decided to stay in San Francisco, where she became the first female reporter in the city. In 1887, she returned to Charles City and joined the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association.

In 1890, Carrie Chapman married George Catt. She began to work for the National American Woman Suffrage Association. In 1892, she succeeded Susan B. Anthony as the NAWSA president. In 1902, she organized the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Following George Catt's death, Carrie Chapman Catt campaigned worldwide for suffrage equality.

In 1916, Catt revealed a new plan to campaign for suffrage at both the state and national levels simultaneously. On August 26, 1920, the nineteenth amendment to the United States Constitution was officially ratified, giving women the right to vote.

After the passage of the nineteenth amendment, Catt continued to be active in politics. She founded the League of Women Voters, published the book Woman Suffrage and Politics: The Inner Story of the Suffrage Movement, and lobbied for world peace and child labor laws. On March 9, 1947, Carrie Chapman Catt died of heart failure in her home in New Rochelle, New York.

(From the U.S. Library of Congress and the National 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Society, on the Carrie Chapman Catt home page located at [www.catt.org](http://www.catt.org))